



STATE OF MICHIGAN
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

March 8, 2004
RESUBMITTED: April 12, 2004
RESUBMITTED: May 10, 2004

Memorandum to the Natural Resources Commission:

SUBJECT: Deer Hunting Regulations

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, authorizes the Director and the Commission to issue orders to manage animals in this state.

Discussion and Background:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to managing white-tailed deer in balance with its habitat to yield healthy fawns, does, and bucks. Proposed changes in regulations in this order clarify seven sections, add one day to the South Fox Island firearm season, add four southern Michigan counties to the late antlerless firearm season, and extend the deer season to January 2.

The following changes are proposed to better define eight regulations: replace specific dates for the early firearm season in Deer Management Unit (DMU) 055 with a specific time frame in September to eliminate the need to change this order every year to adjust for the calendar; clarify the youth season and the special disabled firearm season are on each two consecutive days; change the wording to reflect that the youth firearm deer hunt covers two days; authorize vendors designated by the Director to issue permits to hunt on South Fox Island; remove the address and telephone number for the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore; remove the reference to a local drawing for the Shiawassee managed deer hunt because this drawing has not been held since 1998; and correct the legal definitions for DMU 022 and DMU 122 to properly state the location of Pine Creek.

South Fox Island has established special deer hunts. There is no deer hunting allowed on the Island on October 29 or from November 27 to January 1. The Department recommends that October 29 be added to the South Fox Island firearm season establishing the dates of October 29 through November 26.

Deer populations in certain areas in Zone 3 are significantly over established goals. Twelve counties (Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, St. Joseph, and Tuscola) substantially over goal were open to the late antlerless season in 2003. Based upon an additional year's data, the southern Michigan counties of Allegan, Ottawa, Sanilac, and Washtenaw are substantially over goal. The Department recommends the late antlerless deer season be open on private lands in southern Michigan in these 16 specific counties. The Department recommends the late antlerless firearm season remain open in the seven-county Special Regulation Units. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for a DMU open to this season may take a deer during this season.

The last day to hunt deer in Michigan is January 1. January 1 is a Saturday in 2005. Extending the hunting season to include Sunday, January 2, will provide additional recreational opportunities without biological impact to the resource. The Department recommends extending the 2004 deer season to include January 2, 2005.

Recommendation:

This order was submitted for information only at the April 2004 meeting of the Natural Resources Commission. This item appeared in the April 26 and May 24, 2004, Calendars and is eligible for approval on June 4, 2004. We are now recommending that it be acted upon at this meeting.

William E. Moritz, Acting Chief Wildlife Division	Alan Marble, Acting Chief Law Enforcement Division	George E. Burgoyne, Jr. Resource Management Deputy
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I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ORDER

Amendment No. 7 of 2004

Under the authority of sections 40107 and 40113a, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, as amended, being sections 324.40107 and 324.40113a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the Natural Resources Commission and the Director of the Department of Natural Resources ordered that effective June 5, 2004, the following sections of the Wildlife Conservation Order shall read as follows:

3.101 Deer hunting, open seasons; type of deer that may be taken; carrying of firearms; season limit.

Sec. 3.101. (1) The open firearm deer season shall be from November 15 to November 30.

(2) The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only deer season in zone 1 shall be a total of 10 days from the first Friday in December to 9 days thereafter. The open muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only deer season in zones 2 and 3 shall be a total of 10 days from the second Friday in December to 9 days thereafter.

(3) A person hunting deer with a muzzleloading firearm during the muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season shall only possess or carry afield, or take a deer with a muzzle-loading rifle, muzzle-loading shotgun, or black-powder pistol, loaded with black-powder or a commercially manufactured black-powder substitute.

(4) The open bow and arrow only season shall be from October 1 through November 14 and from December 1 through January 2.

(5) During the open bow and arrow only season, a person hunting deer with a bow and arrow shall not possess or carry afield a pistol, revolver, or any other firearm unless the person is properly licensed to hunt deer with a firearm and is hunting in an area open to firearm deer hunting.

(6) The early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a total of 9 days from the second Saturday in October to 8 days thereafter upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Alpena, Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, and Presque Isle counties. The late antlerless firearm deer season shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 2 upon privately owned lands within Alcona, Alpena, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Crawford, Hillsdale, Ionia, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lapeer, Lenawee, Montmorency, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, St. Joseph, and Tuscola counties. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for the deer management unit in which they are hunting may take a deer during these seasons.

(7) The early antlerless firearm deer season shall be a total of 7 days from the third Thursday in September to 6 days thereafter upon privately owned lands within deer management unit 055. Only a person possessing a valid antlerless deer license issued for deer management unit 055 may take a deer during this season. The deer management assistance firearm hunt period shall be from the first Monday following the third Saturday in December through January 2 upon lands owned by federal, state, county, or local units of government, non-profit organizations, and other urban or suburban properties in zone 3. Only those areas with a wildlife division approved deer population management plan will be considered for issuance of these special deer management assistance permits. Only a person possessing a valid deer management assistance permit issued for this hunt period may take a deer with a firearm during this season.

(8) The season limit shall be 1 deer per firearm deer license, 1 deer per bow and arrow deer license, 1 deer per tag issued with a combination deer license, plus 1 deer per antlerless deer license.

(9) Except as provided by sections 3.101c and 3.101d, the kind of deer which may be taken during the respective open seasons for each combination of season and deer license type shall be as follows:

<u>Type of license</u>	<u>Season in which used</u>	<u>Kind of deer that may be taken</u>
Bow and arrow deer license	Bow and arrow only seasons.	Antlerless or antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Firearm deer license	Firearm deer season, muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season. Youth firearm deer hunting days	Antlered deer, except if a person takes 2 antlered deer all seasons combined, one of the antlered deer must have at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length.
Combination deer license – Regular	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless or antlered deer
Combination deer license – Regular	Firearm deer season or muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season Youth firearm deer hunting days	Antlered deer
Combination deer license – Restricted	Bow and arrow only seasons	Antlerless deer or a deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length
Combination deer license – Restricted	Firearm deer season or muzzle-loading and black-powder firearms only season Youth firearm deer hunting days	A deer which has at least 1 antler with 4 or more antler points 1 or more inches in length

(10) A person issued a permit by the department to hunt from a standing vehicle may take deer with a firearm during a 2-day hunt starting the third Saturday in October upon privately owned lands. Except as already provided in section 40114, part 401, wildlife conservation, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, being section 324.40114 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, regarding the taking of a deer of either sex, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to a person participating in this season.

3.101e Youth firearm deer hunting days, season established, limits defined, adult requirements, hunting hours.

Sec. 3.101e. The firearm deer youth hunting days shall be a 2-day hunt starting the fourth Saturday in September. The following rules shall apply to a person taking deer on the youth firearm deer hunting days:

(1) Youths 12 through 16 years of age may take 1 deer provided the youth has a firearm or combination deer hunting license or an antlerless deer hunting license valid for the unit in which they are hunting. The kind of deer that may be taken shall be the same as during the firearm deer season.

(2) A parent or legal guardian shall not allow a youth hunter to go afield to hunt deer unless the youth hunter is accompanied by an adult at least 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth firearm deer hunter shall not possess or carry a firearm or bow and arrow.

(3) The hunting hours shall be one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, local time.

(4) Except as otherwise specifically provided in this section, all regulations of state law and this order regarding the taking, possession, transportation, and storage of deer during a firearm deer season shall apply to persons participating in youth firearm deer hunting days.

3.106 South Fox Island deer management unit, open seasons, permitted hunting arms.

Sec. 3.106. (1) The bow and arrow only deer hunting season shall be from October 1 to October 28 within the South Fox Island deer management unit.

(2) The firearm deer hunting season shall be from October 29 to November 26 within the South Fox Island deer management unit. Permissible firearms and bows and arrows shall be the same as those for zone 2 during the firearm deer season.

(3) A person shall not take a deer from November 27 to January 1 within the South Fox Island deer management unit.

(4) The director may establish hunting periods and quotas for the number of permits to be issued for hunting deer on South Fox Island.

3.107 South Fox Island deer hunting regulations.

Sec. 3.107. (1) A South Fox Island permit, along with a current Michigan deer hunting license for the appropriate season, shall be required to take a deer during any open season within the South Fox Island deer management unit. Permits shall be applied for in person, by phone, or by mail at the Cadillac management unit office, department of natural resources, during regular office hours, or vender(s) designated by the director.

(2) A person shall not sell, lend, or allow another person to use their South Fox Island special permit; nor shall a person use or attempt to use another person's South Fox Island permit.

(3) A person that takes a deer within the South Fox Island deer management unit must immediately seal the deer with a special South Fox Island seal. Three seals shall be issued per permit.

(4) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person may take 1 deer for each South Fox Island seal issued to that person. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this order, a person shall not take an antlered deer unless the deer has at least 1 antler with 2 or more antler points of at least 1 inch in length. A person shall not take more than 1 antlered deer from the South Fox Island deer management unit. Deer taken from the South Fox Island deer management unit shall not be included in the season limit as defined in section 3.101(8) of this order.

3.108 North Manitou Island deer management unit, deer hunting regulations.

Sec. 3.108. (1) A special permit along with a current Michigan deer hunting license for the appropriate season shall be required to hunt deer during any open season within the North Manitou Island deer management unit. Permits to hunt on North Manitou Island shall be applied for by contacting the park superintendent, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. A valid Michigan deer hunting license is required in order to apply. In issuing these free permits, the park superintendent shall serve as the agent of the department to implement the deer hunt on North Manitou Island.

(2) A person shall not sell, lend, or allow another person to use their North Manitou Island special permit, nor shall a person use or attempt to use another person's North Manitou Island special permit.

(3) The park superintendent or his agents shall affix a validation tag to each legally taken deer at the time the hunter leaves North Manitou Island with the deer.

3.113 Shiawassee deer hunting permits, application process; drawings; unlawful acts.

Sec. 3.113. (1) Shiawassee deer hunting permits will be issued to persons chosen in random drawings from applicants for each hunting period. Permits shall not be transferable to other hunters.

(2) Applications for preregistered hunts in the Shiawassee deer management unit will be in accordance with instructions provided by the department. It shall be unlawful to apply more than once or for more than 1 preregistered deer hunt.

(3) Applications for preregistered deer hunts must be submitted in accordance with instructions no later than September 24.

12.22 "Deer management unit 022 (Crystal Falls unit)" defined.

Sec. 12.22. "Deer management unit 022 (Crystal Falls unit)" means that area of Iron and Dickinson counties bounded by a line beginning in Iron county at the junction of the Michigan-Wisconsin state line (about 5½ miles northwest of the end of the Brule river, near center of section 33, T43N R37W) and USFS highway 16 (section 33, T43N R37W, also known as Iron county road 436 or federal forest highway 16), then northerly until split of USFS highway 16 and county road 436 (near center of section 27, T43N R37W), northerly on USFS highway 16 to highway US-2 (section 36, T44N R37W), easterly on highway US-2 through city of Iron River to Bates-Amasa road (also known as county road 643, near center of section 21, T43N R34W), northeasterly on Bates-Amasa road to Trapper's lane (section 17, T44N R33W) just south of the city of Amasa, easterly on Trapper's lane to the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul, and Pacific railroad line (section 16, T44N R33W), southeasterly on said railroad line into Dickinson county to highway M-95 near the city of Channing (west side of section 8, T43N R30W), southerly on highway M-95 to county road 426 (also known as the Turner truck trail, in section 8, T43N R30W), easterly on county road 426 past the city of Ralph to the city of Alfred (junction of county road 426 and Northland truck trail, in section 35, T43N R27W), southwesterly on Northland truck trail (through section 26, T42N R27W, also known as Camp 3 road) to Swan Peterson road (section 32, T42N R27W), southerly on Swan Peterson road to highway M-69 (west side of section 8, T41N R27W), westerly on highway M-69 into the city of Foster city to county road 569 (also known as Waucedah road, in Foster city, or county road G-69, east side section 12, T41N R28W), southerly on county road 569 to highway US-2 at the city of Waucedah (south side of section 15, T39N R28W), westerly on highway US-2 to county road 573 near the city of Loretto (section 18, T39N R28W), northwesterly on county road 573 to Pine creek (section 3, T39N R29W), northwesterly along Pine Creek to the Wisconsin electric highline (northeast quarter of section 13, T40N R30W), northerly along the Wisconsin electric highline to Carney lake road (east side of section 32, T41N R29W), westerly on Carney lake road to Merriman truck trail (east side of section 25, T41N R30W), westerly on Merriman truck trail to highway M-95 (section 27, T41N R30W), northerly on highway M-95 to Johnson road (north side of section 22, T41N R30W), westerly on Johnson road to county road 607 (near southeast corner of section 16, T41N R30W), northwesterly on county road 607 to Peavy falls road (section 16, T41N R30W), westerly on Peavy falls road in Dickinson county to Michigamme falls road in Iron county (west side of section 7, T41N R30W, no turn, road name change only), westerly and southerly on Michigamme falls road to the Menominee river (northwest corner of section 16, T41N R31W), westerly and northwesterly upstream along the Menominee river to the confluence of the Menominee and Brule rivers (section 16, T41N R31W), northwesterly upstream along the Brule river (state line) to the Michigan-Wisconsin state line in section 18, T42N R36W, northwesterly on the Michigan-Wisconsin state line to the point of beginning.

12.22a "Deer management unit 122 (Norway unit)" defined.

Sec. 12.22a. "Deer management unit 122 (Norway unit)" means that area of Menominee, Dickinson, and Iron counties bounded by a line beginning in Menominee county at the junction of highway US-2 and the Soo Line railroad (southeast quarter of section 2, T38N R27W), then southwesterly to the Menominee river (northeast quarter of section 20, T38N R28W), upstream northwesterly along the Menominee river near the Dickinson county line into Iron county to the confluence of the Menominee and Brule rivers (section 16, T41N R31W), northwesterly and westerly on Michigamme Falls road in Iron county to Peavy Falls road in Dickinson county (west side of section 7, T41N R30W, no turn, road name change only), easterly on Peavy Falls road to county road 607 (section 16, T41N R30W), southeasterly on county road 607 to Johnson road (near southeast corner of section 16, T41N R30W), westerly on Johnson road to highway M-95 (north side of section 22, T41N R30W), southerly on highway M-95 to Merriman truck trail (section 27, T41N R30W), easterly on Merriman truck trail to Carney Lake road (east side of section 25, T41N R30W), southeasterly on Carney Lake road to the Wisconsin Electric highline (east side of

section 32, T41N R29W), southerly on the Wisconsin Electric highline to Pine creek (northeast quarter of section 13, T40N R30W), southeasterly along Pine creek to county road 573 (section 3, T39N R29W), southeasterly on county road 573 to highway US-2 near the city of Loretto (section 18, T39N R28W), easterly on highway US-2 through the city of Waucesha (south side of section 15, T39N R28W) continuing easterly on highway US-2 to Beaver Pete's road (northeast corner of section 22, T39N R28W, which runs on the north edge of sections 23 and 24, T39N R28W), easterly on Beaver Pete's road into Menominee county to the R3 road (also known as Johnson road, the north-south road in center of section 19, T39N R27W), southerly on R3 road to highway US-2 (center of north edge of section 30, T39N R27W), easterly on highway US-2 to the point of beginning.

Issued this 4th day of June, 2004.

Approved as to matters over which the Natural Resources Commission has authority.

Keith J. Charters, Chairman
Natural Resources Commission

Approved as to matters over which the Director has authority.

Rebecca A. Humphries
Director